

Appendix A

Analysis of Scoping Comments

Lower East Fork Potlatch River Large Woody Debris Project

Five letters specific to the project were received during the scoping period of July 31, 2015 to August 31, 2016. The letters were analyzed and an analysis code assigned to the comments where appropriate (see Table 1).

Comment Analysis Codes

- 1: Outside the scope of the proposed action.
- 2: Already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level of decision.
- 3: Irrelevant to the decision to be made.
- 4: Conjectural and not supported by scientific evidence.
- 5: General comment, suggestion, opinion, or position statement.
- 6: Other agency or partner's consultation, review, advice, recommendation(s), etc.
- 7: Already considered in the proposed action or is standard procedure.
- 8: Will be included in an analysis of effects to the environment.

Codes 1 – 6 are standard codes. Comments assigned to these codes are considered to be non-significant issues. Code 7 was added as a category for those suggestions that are already proposed or for procedures that are routinely done. Code 8 was added as a category for suggestions that will be analyzed for effects to the environment.

Table 1: Comment Analysis

Commenter	Comment	Disposition
Rod Parks	While I support this project, I have a few concerns...	Thank you for your comment.
	Cleaning the ATV and trailer of vegetation before entering the site should be required....	7
	The user created trail ... on the north side of the river should not be used. Use only the south side of the river for access, hauling materials, etc. or haul materials by hand.	Only foot traffic would use the user-created trail. Upon project completion, deadfall and debris would be placed to discourage future use of the trail.
	Lodge pole posts are a real eye sour and do not fit in a natural environment. Please require the tops of the post be cut off at no more than 6 inches above the LWD.	The tops of the posts would be cut off as low as possible while continuing to maintain the integrity of the structure.
	Make sure the angle of the LWD is constructed [so] that it will not become a weir at high water and wash out the bank and create a new channel.	Structure design and installation includes measures to prevent excessive scouring and eroding of the streambank.
Jim McIver Lewis-Clark ATV Club Inc.	Supports the Project.	Thank you for your comment.

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Commenter	Comment	Disposition
Daniel Stewart Idaho Dept. of Env. Quality	Project activities may affect the NP-CW NF's ability to achieve flow based on pollutant allocation reduction associated with Forest land or management activities.	Thank you for your comment.
	Projects initiated after the establishment of TMDL pollutant load allocations can adversely affect water quality through a reduction in load capacity.	Thank you for your comment.
Gary Mcfarlane Friends of the Clearwater	This proposal, though intended to be an improvement, would benefit from an analysis in an EA....	The project meets all the criteria outlined in 36 CFR 220.6., therefore the use of a CE is appropriate.
	The use of vehicles on closed roads,	FSR 3227 is closed (and gated) to public use, but may be used for administrative purposes when necessary.
	cutting trees in RHCAs and skidding them[.]	The cutting of green trees for stream rehabilitation projects is consistent with PACFISH; every effort will be made when skidding trees to avoid or minimize the impacts to RHCA habitat and resources.
	section 7 ESA compliance,	7
	and a 404 permit are all serious concerns.	Permits required for disturbance of water or wetlands will be obtained prior to initiating work
Jonathan Oppenheimer and Jenna Narducci, Idaho Conservation League	We commend the efforts IDFG and USFS are taking to restore historic habitat for sensitive in-stream fish and wildlife.	Thank you for your comment.
	We agree the project will restore habitat conditions and riparian [sic] function of the Lower East Fork Potlatch River and appreciate [sic] the consideration given to ensure design features are consistent with PACFISH standards and other regulations.	Thank you for your comment.
	We encourage you to minimize ... ground disturbance with motorized vehicles, skidders, etc. and take steps to minimize the spread of invasive weed species.	7
	Where possible, the Forest Service should utilize hand labor ... to minimize disturbance.	7
	[In] areas...prone to sedimentation or erosion, weed-free straw bales should temporarily line the areas and be removed once ... the erosion hazard has been mitigated.	Appropriate erosion control / mitigation measures would be applied where necessary.
	All equipment should be washed prior to entering National Forest Lands to minimize the potential introduction and/or spread of invasive weeds.	7
	[D]isturbed areas facilitate expansion of noxious weeds and erosion, it is important all areas impacted ... be stabilized.	5, 7

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Commenter	Comment	Disposition
Jonathan Oppenheimer and Jenna Narducci, Idaho Conservation League	The Forest Service should take this opportunity to address invasive weed issues within the project area.	3
	If invasive weed treatment is needed, we recommend hand removal in and around the stream banks and riparian areas and integrated strategies elsewhere.	Disturbed areas would be reseeded, where necessary, with a native seed mix and weeds hand-pulled or spot sprayed with an herbicide appropriate for use around water sources.
	If herbicides used, only biodegradable chemical herbicides should be used. Herbicides should not be used that ... act as a bioaccumulator, resulting in fish and wildlife mortality.	
	As part of restoration...all work crews should be trained in invasive weed recognition and removal and should be asked to patrol the project area including 100' on either side of the fence line and mechanically remove weeds or microtrash.	1
	The project area should be monitored for invasive species for three years after the project is completed.	The project area, including the staging areas, would be monitored for noxious weeds and if found, measures taken for removal and control.